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CPYRGHT

MAY 15 1966

The World of Books

Sublimely

CPYRGHT

Absurd

By DON THOMPSON

Rocky Mountain News Writer

What happens when a man tries to "sexually integrate" the League of Women Voters?

Marvin Kitman knows.

How does one go about finding CIA headquarters to offer one's services as a spy?

Marvin Kitman knows.

Who is Marvin Kitman?

Why, he's the author of

THE NUMBER ONE BEST SELLER (Dial Press) \$3.95.

That title is not meaningless, nor was it chosen lightly. It is frankly designed to sell books, and it's also Kitman's commentary on the honesty-in-advertising movement.

Kitman is a firm believer in the American free enterprise system. So firm that when Wheeling Steel increased its prices \$6 a ton, Kitman put in an order for one ton of steel.

That ton of steel is still on the front yard of the Kitman home in Leonia, N.J., but it was not acquired without a good deal of somewhat rancorous negotiations, and Kitman freely expressed his indignation at not being allowed to pay for it.



Marvin Kitman

Marvin Kitman is also a humanitarian. In his efforts to mediate the dispute between Khrushchev and Mao Tse-tung, he placed a long distance telephone call to Chairman Mao, intending to invite the China boss over to the house.

The closest he could get was Shanghai, but at least Kitman could feel that he'd done his part.

Presidential Candidate

Kitman is best known as a politician.

In 1964, he entered the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

Rockefeller and Lodge were Eisenhower Republicans, and Goldwater was a McKinley Republican, but Kitman was an out-and-out Lincoln Republican.

Running on the 1864 GOP platform ("free the slaves!") Kitman campaigned openly as a cheap politician on a \$5-a-day budget.

He picked up votes in both the New Hampshire and Illinois primaries and came within a whisker of actually getting himself nominated at the San Francisco convention, where one state delegation had pledged itself to support him on the 25th ballot.

Kitman ruefully remarked: "I never said I was the smartest Republican, just the most reactionary."

Marvin Kitman, along with all his other accomplishments, is news-managing editor of *Monocle* magazine.

Whether or not *The Number One Best Seller* ever becomes the number one best seller, it is a pure delight to read.

From Absurd to Sublime

Going from the sublimely absurd to the absurdly sublime, we have **WHEN TIME WAS BORN**, by James T. Farrell (The Smith) \$3.50 (distributed by Horizon Press).

Ever since Farrell published *Young Lonigan* in 1932, the literary critics have been saying over and over again that Farrell has been writing the same thing over and over again.

Farrell has always contended that his critics have been far more repetitious than he, and this slim volume is his most convincing refutation of them yet.

This prose-poem of the Garden of Eden is completely unlike anything of Farrell's I have ever read before; and it's not strikingly similar to anything I've ever read before.

I won't try to describe it. Anyone who still believes James T. Farrell is only a "simple realist" ought to read this.

Farrell's introduction is a beautiful and courageous manifesto of artistic integrity.



Farrell